

Message Text

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JERUSALEM FOR SAUNDERS AND LEWIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PEPR, US, IS

SUBJECT: NEWS STORY ON MONDALE TRIP

1. FYI: WASHINGTON POST CARRIES THIS MORNING DISPATCH
FROM JERUSALEM BY WILLIAM CLAIBORNE ON MONDALE VISIT.
EXCERPTS FOLLOW:

QUOTE: THE U.S. GOVERNMENT MADE A CONCERTED EFFORT YESTER-
DAY TO CONVINCE AMERICAN JEWISH LEADERS VISITING HERE WITH
VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION,
DESPITE ITS PUBLIC UTTERANCES, BELIEVES THAT PRIME
MINISTER MENACHEM BEGIN IS IN THE BEST POSITION AMONG
ISRAELI POLITICIANS TO LEAD ISRAEL TO MIDDLE EAST PEACE.

--IN THE MIDST OF THIS EFFORT, THE AMERICAN DELEGATION AND
ISRAELI CABINET MINISTERS RECEIVED WORD OF PRESIDENT
CARTER'S STATEMENT IN WASHINGTON THAT IF THE ISRAELI-
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EGYPTIAN INITIATIVE BOGS DOWN, THE UNITED NATIONS MAY BE
CALLED UPON TO RESUME THE GENEVA CONFERENCE.

--THIS STATEMENT--AND PARTICULARLY ITS TIMING--APPEARED
TO STUN THE ISRAELIS AND THE AMERICAN DIPLOMATS.

-- ISRAELI GOVERNMENT SOURCES SAID THEY WERE OFFENDED

AND THEY EXPRESSED FEARS THAT RESUMPTION OF THE GENEVA PEACE TALKS WOULD LEAD TO INVITING THE SOVIET UNION BACK INTO THE PEACE PROCESS.

-- THE AMERICAN DIPLOMATIC DELEGATION EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT BECAUSE RELEASE OF CARTER'S REMARKS APPEARED TO THEM TO UNDERMINE THE PURPOSE OF MONDALE'S VISIT TO ISRAEL. . . .

-- THE REPORT OF CARTER'S REMARKS TO U.S. NEWS EXECUTIVES CAME AS ABOUT 500 ISRAELI AND AMERICAN OFFICIALS, GUESTS OF THE U.S. AMBASSADOR, GATHERED AT THE KING DAVID HOTEL FOR A GALA RECEPTION TO COMMEMORATE THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF ISRAEL'S INDEPENDENCE.

--THE ISRAELI MINISTERS AND U.S. DIPLOMATIC OFFICIALS, SAYING THEY HAD NOT READ CARTER'S STATEMENT, PUBLICLY DECLINED TO COMMENT. HOWEVER, PRIVATELY, SOME OF THEM SAID THEY WERE CONFUSED THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD MAKE SUCH A STATEMENT TO COINCIDE WITH ATTEMPTS BY MONDALE TO REESTABLISH UNITED STATES SUPPORT OF BEGIN AS A LEADER IN THE PEACE PROCESS. . . . (END QUOTE).
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